

REMARKS

By way of summary, Claims 1-20 were originally filed in the present application. Through previous amendments, Claims 21-28 were added. Claims 1 and 18 are amended herein, and new Claim 29 is added herein. Thus, Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application.

Amendments to the claims set forth above include markings to show the changes by way of the present amendment, deletions being in ~~strikeout~~ (e.g., ~~strikeout~~) and additions being underlined (e.g., underlined).

Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that Claims 12-17, 24, 25, 27, and 28 were deemed allowable by the Examiner.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, and 18-22 Are Allowable Over Westberg

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,718,341 issued to Westberg ("Westberg"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the characterization of Westberg set forth in the Office Action and with the rejection of the presently pending claims. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of the present Application, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 18 to more clearly distinguish those claims over Westberg. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims are patentable over Westberg as discussed in detail below.

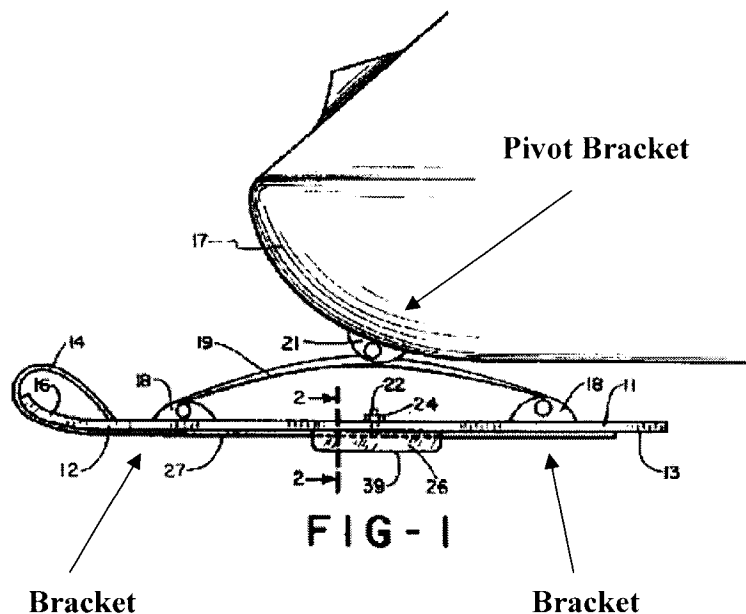
Claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 9

Amended Claim 1 recites:

A ski for a snow vehicle, the ski comprising a ski body having a generally horizontal bottom surface that contacts the snow when the ski is in use, a ski mounting bracket located on a top side of the ski body, *the ski mounting bracket defining at least in part a bracket pivot point wherein the ski pivots about the ski mounting bracket*, a wear bar disposed on the bottom side of the ski body, and at least one glide member also disposed on the bottom side of the ski member, the glide member being positioned at least as low as the lowest most part of the wear bar, the glide member being wider than a portion of the wear bar next to the glide member, *the entire glide member being disposed either forward or rearward of the bracket pivot point.*

Westberg does not contain each and every limitation recited by Claim 1. Claim 1 recites, among other things, a ski mounting bracket defining at least in part a bracket pivot point wherein the ski pivots about the ski mounting bracket and an entire glide member being disposed either forward or rearward of the bracket pivot point, as emphasized by the italicized language in the claim above.

Westberg discloses an anti-skid device 26 attached to a wear bar 12 of a snowmobile ski 11 to prevent the ski from sliding sideways. Westberg, Col. 1, lines 2-5. "The ski 11 is attached to snowmobile 17 through the use of brackets 18, a spring device 19, and a pivot bracket 21." *Id.* Col. 1, lines 47-49. As illustrated in Figure 1 of Westberg, which is reproduced below, the pivot bracket 21 operates as a pivot point of the snowmobile 17 about which the ski assembly pivots. The brackets 18 attach the spring device 19 to the snowmobile ski 11.



The brackets 18 *cannot* operate as pivot points because Westberg does not describe any structure of the snowmobile ski 11 which pivots or rotates relative to the brackets 18. See Figure 1. Rather, pivot bracket 21 operates as a pivot point of the snowmobile 17 about which the ski assembly pivots.

As shown in Figure 1, the anti-skid device 26 is disposed directly below the pivot bracket 21. It is not positioned entirely forward or entirely rearward of the pivot bracket 21. Therefore, Westberg does not disclose *inter alia*, a ski mounting bracket defining at least in part a bracket

Appl. No. : 10/601,093
Filed : June 20, 2003

pivot point wherein the ski pivots about the ski mounting bracket and an entire glide member being disposed either forward or rearward of the bracket pivot point.

As described above, Westberg does not contain each and every limitation of Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is in condition for immediate allowance. Dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 7, and 9 depend from independent Claim 1. These claims are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim, as well as for novel and non-obvious combinations of elements recited therein.

Claims 18-22

Amended Claim 18 recites:

A snowmobile comprising an engine, a transmission, a drive track, a steering mechanism, and a ski, the ski having a ski body with a generally horizontal bottom surface that contacts snow when the ski is in use, a ski mounting bracket located on a top side of the ski body, *the ski mounting bracket defining at least in part a pivot point wherein the ski pivots about the ski mounting bracket*, a wear bar extending below the bottom surface of the ski body, and means for preventing at least a portion of the wear bar from entering depressions in a snow surface, *said means extending directly below the wear bar and being positioned entirely either forward or rearward of the bracket pivot point.*

Westberg does not contain each and every limitation of Claim 18. For example, Claim 18 recites, among other things, a ski mounting bracket defining at least in part a pivot point wherein the ski pivots about the ski mounting bracket and means for preventing at least a portion of the wear bar from entering depression in a snow surface extending directly below the wear bar and positioned entirely either forward or rearward of the bracket pivot point, as emphasized by the italicized language in the claim above. As noted above, Westberg does not disclose

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 18 is in condition for immediate allowance. Dependent claims 19-22 depend from independent Claim 18. These claims are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim, as well as for novel and non-obvious combinations of elements recited therein.

Appl. No. : 10/601,093
Filed : June 20, 2003

New Claim 29 Is In Condition For Immediate Allowance

New Claim 29 has been added. Claim 29 is fully supported by the original specification and drawings, including at least Figures 5 and 6 and Paragraphs [0037], [0041], and [0042] of the application as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 29 is in condition for immediate allowance for the same reasons that Claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 9 are in condition for allowance, as set forth in detail above, as well as for novel and non-obvious combinations of elements recited therein.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Appl. No. : 10/601,093
Filed : June 20, 2003

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

Any remarks in support of patentability of one claim should not be imputed to any other claim, even if similar terminology is used. Any remarks referring to only a portion of a claim should not be understood to base patentability on solely that portion; rather, patentability must rest on each claim taken as a whole.

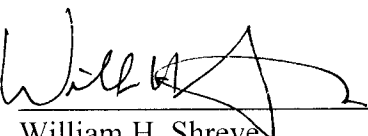
The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: October 29, 2007

By: 

William H. Shreve
Registration No. 35,678
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

4456758.1
10/29/07